



Enclosure 2a
May 30, 2017

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
February 15, 2018

RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Rhode Island Board of Education met on Thursday, February 15, 2018, at the Community College of Rhode Island, Warwick.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cottam welcomed everyone to the quarterly meeting of the R.I. Board of Education, declared a quorum present, and called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. She then asked everyone to pause and reflect on the tragic events that occurred in Florida the day before.

Next, Chair Cottam stated for the record that Board Members Caruolo, Davis, Field, Foulkes, McConaghy, and Williams, would not be attending the meeting, and that Dr. Rosemary Costigan, Vice-President for Academic Affairs at CCRI, would represent President Hughes, who had another commitment.

Present: Barbara Cottam, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, *Heather Crosby, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Jo Eva Gaines, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

*Arrived at 5:40 p.m.

Absent:

Vivian Caruolo
Karen Davis
Gara Field
William Foulkes
Daniel McConaghy
Jeffery Williams
Mike Grey – ex-officio, non-voting member
Mariela Lucaj – student representative, ex-officio, non-voting member
Thalia Philippe – student representative, ex-officio, non-voting member
Stefan Pryor – ex-officio, non-voting member

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

On a motion duly made by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Rachelle Green it was

VOTED: That, the Rhode Island Board of Education accepts the agenda for the meeting of February 15, 2018

Vote: 10 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Jo Eva Gaines, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

[Member Crosby arrived at 5:40 p.m.]

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

2a. Minutes of the November 15, 2017, Meeting

On a motion duly made by Dennis Duffy and seconded by Amy Beretta, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the minutes of the November 15, 2017, meeting

Vote: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

[Members Crosby, Gaines and Martinez had to recuse themselves from the vote as they did not attend the November 15, 2017, meeting of the Board of Education]

3. OPEN FORUM

Chair Cottam reported that no one had signed-up to speak at Open Forum.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Chair of the Board of Education

Chair Cottam stated that she would defer to the Commissioners to report on what is happening in their respective departments and highlighted some of the collective work that is happening between the RI Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE) and the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner (OPC), since the Board last met.

Chair Cottam began by highlighting the Postsecondary Attainment Plan, which the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner is gearing up to launch next week. The Attainment Plan is in response to Governor Raimondo's ambitious goal to increase the percentage of Rhode Islanders with a postsecondary credential from 45% to 70% by the year 2025.

Chair Cottam ended her report by emphasizing the work that has been happening with the PrepareRI initiative, which guarantees that every one of Rhode Island's students will graduate high school career-ready and prepared, and into a family-sustaining job. Chair Cottam stressed the importance of conveying the message to parents that their child no longer must choose between a college pathway or a career pathway and that today's career and education programs are focusing on high-skill, high-demand careers, and are no longer vocational for folks who are not able to complete college-level coursework. Chair Cottam requested that RIDE and OPC develop a plan to be presented at the May 30 Board meeting, which guarantees that every child graduating from a RIDE approved CTE program will be able to enroll at URI, RIC and CCRI, and earn transcribed credit. In addition, a recruitment pipeline needs to be created between high-skill high-growth RIDE approved CTE programs and the high-skill high-growth postsecondary programs.

5. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

Commissioner Wagner began his report by echoing Chair Cottam's sentiments on the horrific events that took place in Parkland, Florida. He stressed that student safety is something that RI schools and district leaders take very seriously and work closely with their local law-enforcement agencies to ensure that they are integrated with the entire school and broader community.

Next, Commissioner Wagner reported that RIDE is currently in the process of promulgating Commissioner's regulations regarding districts' responsibilities in protecting transgender and gender non-conforming students. As part of the regulatory requirement, RIDE held a public hearing and also provided an opportunity for the public on both sides of the issue to

stay after the hearing to discuss and learn from each other's perspectives. Commissioner Wagner expressed that for him it was a moving and powerful example of how statewide leadership can be used to help move people on difficult issues that schools grapple with every day.

Commissioner Wagner also reported on the proposed PK-12 budget request. He began with the Governor's proposal to invest \$1B over the next five years to help address the substandard school building facilities across the state. He expressed that these substandard school facilities affect not only students and teachers, but equally important, industry leaders who are either considering growing or building their businesses in Rhode Island. The proposed budget also includes:

- \$14.1M to fully fund the eighth-year of the Funding Formula;
- \$2.5M to continue to fund English Language Learner (ELL) students;
- continued investments for the expansion of high quality, early learning programs tied into the Governor's third-grade reading challenge;
- continued investments in the pathways work, specifically \$260M to expand computer science;

Next, Commissioner Wagner reported that RIDE would soon be announcing to the field the outcome of the stakeholder engagement that has been happening over the last few months to address the funding necessary to support high-quality Career and Technical Education (CTE) offerings. A 26% increase in CTE offerings over the last three-years, coupled with the fact that students now have options to go to any CTE program in the state that best meets their needs, are producing some challenges.

Lastly, Commissioner Wagner reported on the recent Op-ed in the Providence Journal. This was response to the Annie E. Casey Foundation report, which found Rhode Island to be in last place in the nation in terms of the achievement gaps, specifically for the Hispanic/Latino students.

Commissioner of Postsecondary Education

Commissioner Dann-Messier began her report by giving a brief overview of the Governor's proposed budget for public postsecondary education:

- \$3M, of the \$9M requested, for performance funding for the three institutions of postsecondary education;
- Full funding (\$3.6M) for the very successful CCRI Promise Program; and
- \$500K for Dual and Concurrent Enrollment. In addition, there is a separate supplemental request for FY17 and FY18 to make the institutions whole for past services.

Under the Capital Budget, the Governor approved:

- \$45M Bond for phase I of URI Narragansett Bay Campus;

- \$25M for RI College Horace Mann Hall Project;
- \$4M of RICAP funding for the expansion of the Westerly Higher Education Center to Norther RI;

In addition to the budgets, Governor Raimondo also put in \$200K for childcare for low-income college students.

Commissioner Dann-Messier also acknowledged the release of the postsecondary high-level attainment plan outlining strategies going forward. The plan is in response to the Governor's very bold and ambitious goal of 70% of all Rhode Islanders earning some type of postsecondary certification or degree by 2025. The release will be preceded by the kickoff of the professional development series, which was funded by the Rhode Island Foundation. These gatherings will include senior staff at the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, Council Members, key stakeholders, and staff at the public institutions of postsecondary education, who will be brought together over the next few months to discuss trends in postsecondary education and ensure that everyone is current and up to date.

Next, Commissioner Dann-Messier thanked Commissioner Wagner for his support and acknowledged the work happening between the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner and the RI Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to ensure a strong and effective partnership in PK-20 education.

Commissioner Dann-Messier concluded her report by recognizing and thanking Dr. Susan LaPanne, Assistant Commissioner for Finance and Management, for her many years of state service. Dr. LaPanne is retiring from Rhode Island state service to take on a position with the state of New Hampshire.

Board Member Izzo expressed that when speaking of opportunity gaps and what needs to be done, conversations tend to only focus on the education piece (curriculum, school construction). There is also an obligation to remind the broader community, especially the policy makers, that there is a whole host of other pieces (housing, healthcare, nutrition, mental health), that are essential to the conversation. Absent those pieces and the pressures that can be brought to bear, much of what is being done, and many of the investments being made, are for naught.

Commissioner Wagner responded that those issues are being addressed in the Children's Cabinet, a policy group that the Governor has resurrected and that both he and Commissioner Dann-Messier sit on.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. New Skills for Youth/PrepareRI - Update

Commissioner Wagner framed the conversation and conveyed that New Skills for Youth/PrepareRI is one of those initiatives in education that has a high-degree of consensus and a high-degree of impact, and is a game changer in education.

Steve Osborn, Chief of RIDE's Division of Innovation, gave an overview of the work that has taken place over the last two years. He shared that this is a strategic partnership between Rhode Island state agencies, private industry leaders, the public education system, and non-profits, whose goal is to ensure Rhode Island youth have the career readiness skills they need to be competitive in a 21st century economy. He shared that 70% of jobs in Rhode Island will require some form of postsecondary coursework and that 99% of jobs created in the last 10 years require a postsecondary credential of value.

About a year ago, Rhode Island received \$2M, over a three-year span, New Skills for Youth grant from the JP Morgan Chase and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) to support the work. Upon speaking with employers and other stakeholders and looking at national best practices on how to move the needle forward, the team developed bold and essential goals to ensure that:

- Every child graduates high school with a postsecondary credential of value;
- Every child graduates high school with a work-based learning experience; and
- Every elementary and middle school offer career exploration opportunities.

Lots of engagement has occurred with industry leaders to align what employers need to what students are being taught to ensure that they have the technical skills to be successful in the workforce. With the increase of quality CTE programs, there has been an increase of students taking advance placement courses.

Mr. Osborn ended the presentation by highlighting that the Second Annual PrepareRI Summit will be held next month, and this coming April, Rhode Island will be the host of the New Skills for Youth Spring 2018 National Conference, to include school tours and panels with many local leaders.

b. Board of Education Regulations for Dual Enrollment – Proposed Revisions

Kimberly Bright, Chief of Staff to the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, went over the proposed revisions to the Board of Education Regulations for Dual Enrollment. She highlighted two main reasons for the revisions – limit full-time enrollment to CCRI; local school districts will reimburse up to 50% of their local and state core instruction expenditure to the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner (OPC) for tuition and fees for fulltime, enrolled students. The proposed revisions are based on recommendations of a working group, which was led by OPC and RIDE, with broad and inclusive engagement from the institutions of postsecondary education, PK-12 partners, governor's office, and the Commerce Department.

Some Board Members expressed concern with allowing high-school students to enroll fulltime at the public institutions of postsecondary education and then requiring school districts, many of whom are already feeling the impact of other choices available to students, to reimburse the institutions for tuition. Other Board Members are concerned with piling one more burden on the institutions, who already have to deal with so many other waivers.

Commissioner Wagner responded that one of the signature achievements for the Governor is to challenge the assumptions of the PK-12 system and the postsecondary system and allow students to go as far as they can. He clarified that for those students who enroll fulltime at CCRI, the funding that the districts receive in state-aid, 50% will be left in the district to cover fixed and unique costs, with the remainder 50% reimbursed to CCRI.

Board members also stressed the importance of ensuring that there is equity from district to district as well as warranting that districts are not creating barriers for students, because they now have to reimburse 50% of their state-aid to the institutions.

c. Concurrent Enrollment - List of Course Offerings

Board Members had no questions on the list of concurrent enrollment course offerings.

7. ACTION ITEMS

Enclosure 7a - Approval of the Proposed Revisions to the Board of Education Regulations for Dual Enrollment, for the Purpose of Public Review and Comment

On a motion duly made by Timothy DelGiudice and seconded by Thomas Izzo, it was

VOTED: That, the R.I. Board of Education approves the proposed revisions to the Board of Education Regulations for Dual Enrollment, for the purpose of public review and comment.

Vote: 11 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Heather Crosby, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Jo Eva Gaines, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

Enclosure 7b – Approval of the Concurrent Enrollment List of Course Offerings

On a motion duly made by Timothy DelGiudice and seconded by Colleen Callahan, it was

VOTED: That, the R.I. Board of Education approves the Concurrent Enrollment Course List for the University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, and the Community College of Rhode Island, for Academic Year 2018-2019.

Vote: 11 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Heather Crosby, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Jo Eva Gaines, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

7. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Rachelle Green, it was

VOTED: That, the Rhode Island Board of Education adjourns.

Vote: 11 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barbara Cottam, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Heather Crosby, Timothy DelGiudice, Dennis Duffy, Jo Eva Gaines, Rachelle Green, Thomas Izzo, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.